

**KOKOMO BRANCH OF THE NAACP**

**P.O. Box 1311**

**Kokomo, Indiana 46903-1311**

**(765) 271-1629**

August 4, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: FCC Docket #: 03-167

Dear Ms. Dortch,

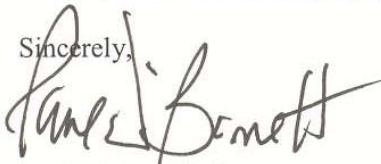
My name is Paul W. Barrett, Sr. and I am the President of the Kokomo Branch of the NAACP. SBC Indiana recently submitted its application to the FCC, pursuant to the 1996 Telecommunications Act, for permission to provide long distance service in Indiana. I strongly encourage you to approve the application.

I am very involved in the Indiana community and, specifically, the minority community. In addition to being the Kokomo Branch President, I also sit on the Indiana State Conference NAACP Board of Directors as well as serve on the Indiana Black Expo Board of Directors. SBC has been a good corporate citizen and has, through its employees, actively participated in assisting the minority community. I am familiar with the telecommunications industry. I realize that several companies offer long distance in Indiana, including MCI-Worldcom and AT&T. I think it is only fair to allow SBC to offer long distance and open the market to more competition. Consumers and businesses will ultimately realize the benefits of more competition and more choices.

The Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission has given preliminary support to the application. I am hopeful the FCC will now approve the application.

Thank you for considering my petition on behalf of SBC Indiana.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Paul W. Barrett, Sr.", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Paul W. Barrett, Sr.  
President, Kokomo NAACP